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It's 1869 all over again as Box Elder County residents re-enact Golden Spike driving.

Crowd Hails Spike Ceremony

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ROMONTORY POINT, Box Elder County — Leadens, wind and falling rain did to dampen the spirit of the 18th re-enactment of the driving of the Golden Spike ceremonies here Tuesday.

The ceremonies marked the anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

The event attracted more than 300 persons, many of

them children from nearby Box Elder County schools.

"This new monument can be a mark of pride for the people of Utah, and we are proud to be a part of it," said John W. Godfrey, assistant to the president of the Union Pacific Railroad.

"Union Pacific salutes the group of local citizens who are keeping alive the memories of this historic event," he said. Mr. Godfrey recalled that the accomplishments of joining together the first transcontinental rail lines unified a nation disrupted by war.

"This railway tied together the extremities of our nation and marked the technological advancements of the railroad," he said.

Supt. William T. Krueger of the Golden Spike National Historic Site, recounted the history of the rail tie-up and the forming of the National Park Service, both of which occurred in 1869.

Size of the new national monument will be nearly 2,167 acres and cover some 15 miles of area. Near the spike monument will be reconstructed replicas of the original locomotives which joined cow catchers after the driving of the spike.

The Wells Wilkinson family of Bountiful sang the song, "The Wedding of the Rails," written by Mrs. Wilkinson.